

# Conversation Contents

**Monday T.P.**

**Attachments:**

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/245. Monday T.P./3.1 Talking Points --UT Bears Ears Trip.docx  
/245. Monday T.P./3.2 Letter from Cason to NCAI 5.5.17.pdf  
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/245. Monday T.P./5.1 Outdoor Industry Roundtable UT May 7.docx  
/245. Monday T.P./6.1 Talking Points --UT Bears Ears Trip.docx  
/245. Monday T.P./6.2 Letter from Cason to NCAI 5.5.17.pdf

**"Bauserman, Christine" <christine\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>**

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**From:** "Bauserman, Christine" <christine\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Sat May 06 2017 11:48:44 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Laura Rigas <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** Russell Roddy <russell\_rodny@ios.doi.gov>, Wadi Yakhour <wadi\_yakhour@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Monday T.P.  
**Attachments:** 0507SumBETribeRecreation3306 (1).docx  
0507SumBETribeRecreation3306 (1).pdf

Laura and Heather,

Do we have any T.P. for the Secretary's Monday electronic briefing?

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**3:30-4:30pm MDT: Meeting with Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition**

**6:00-9:00pm MDT: Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation Dinner**

**Attendees:**

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Location: Bureau of Land Management Utah State Office  
440 West 200 South  
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Participants: Secretary Ryan Zinke

Alfred Lomahquahu, Vice chairman, Hopi Tribe (Kykotsmovi, AZ)  
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Location: Hall of Governors

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Rep. Rob Bishop

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Joshua Bradley, Amer Sports  
Nazz Kurth, Petzl  
Amanda Covington, Vista Outdoors  
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Christine Bauserman  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Special Assistant to Secretary  
email: [christine\\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov)  
phone: 202-706-9330

## **Laura Rigas <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>**

---

**From:** Laura Rigas <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Sat May 06 2017 11:55:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Bauserman, Christine" <christine\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>  
Heather Swift <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Roddy  
<russell\_roddey@ios.doi.gov>, Wadi Yakhour  
**CC:** <wadi\_yakhour@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey"  
<downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Monday T.P.

I am headed to the office now and will have them done before 4pm. Thanks!

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior

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**"Rigas, Laura" <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>**

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**From:** "Rigas, Laura" <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>

**Sent:** Sat May 06 2017 13:07:24 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Bauserman, Christine" <christine\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov>  
Heather Swift <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Russell Roddy  
<russell\_rodny@ios.doi.gov>, Wadi Yakhour  
**CC:** <wadi\_yakhour@ios.doi.gov>, "Magallanes, Downey"  
<downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Monday T.P.  
**Attachments:** Talking Points --UT Bears Ears Trip.docx Letter from Cason to  
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Hi Christine and team --

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**"Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>**

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**From:** "Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Sat May 06 2017 20:12:29 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Rigas, Laura" <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** "Swift, Heather" <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Monday T.P.  
**Attachments:** Outdoor Industry Roundtable UT May 7.docx

I modified the memo BLM submitted for the outdoor industry roundtable and dinner and threw in talking points and background specific for this crowd. Please take a look.

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**"Magallanes, Downey" <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>**

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**From:** "Magallanes, Downey" <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sun May 07 2017 07:51:05 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** [downey\\_magallanes@gmail.com](mailto:downey_magallanes@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Monday T.P.  
**Attachments:** Outdoor Industry Roundtable UT May 7.docx

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Magallanes, Downey** <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>  
Date: Sat, May 6, 2017 at 10:12 PM  
Subject: Re: Monday T.P.  
To: "Rigas, Laura" <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>  
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Nora Rasure, USFS, Regional Forester

Brian Mark Pentecost, USFS Forest Supervisor, Manti La-Sal

**6:00-9:00pm MDT: Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation Dinner**

Location: Hall of Governors

Utah State Capitol Building

Participants: RZ

Governor Gary R. Herbert (last hour)

Senator Orrin Hatch

Senator Mike Lee

Rep. Rob Bishop

Rep. Jason Chaffetz

Rep. Chris Stewart

Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes

Justin Harding, Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Herbert

Mike Mower Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Herbert

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Kathleen Clarke, Director of Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

Mike Styler, Executive Director, Utah Department of Natural Resources

Val Hale, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Tom Adams, Director, Office of Outdoor Recreation  
Vicki Varela - Director of Utah Office of Tourism and Branding  
Aimee Edwards - Communication Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Matt Sandgren, Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Hatch  
John Tanner, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Hatch  
Ed Cox, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Hatch  
Ron Dean, Central and Eastern Utah Director, Office of Senator Orrin Hatch  
Alyson Bell, Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Mike Lee  
Ryan Wilcox, Northern Utah Director, Office of Senator Mike Lee  
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Don Peay, Utah Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

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Christine Bauserman  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Special Assistant to Secretary  
email: [christine\\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov)  
phone: 202-706-9330

--

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Office of the Secretary  
[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)  
202-501-0654 (desk)

202-706-9199 (cell)

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**Downey Magallanes <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>**

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**From:** Downey Magallanes <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Sun May 07 2017 08:51:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** downey.magallanes@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Fwd: Monday T.P.  
**Attachments:** Talking Points --UT Bears Ears Trip.docx Letter from Cason to NCAI 5.5.17.pdf

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Rigas, Laura" <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** May 6, 2017 at 1:07:24 PM MDT  
**To:** "Bauserman, Christine" <[christine\\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Heather Swift <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>, Russell Roddy <[russell\\_roddy@ios.doi.gov](mailto:russell_roddy@ios.doi.gov)>, Wadi Yakhour <[wadi\\_yakhour@ios.doi.gov](mailto:wadi_yakhour@ios.doi.gov)>, "Magallanes, Downey" <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Monday T.P.

Hi Christine and team --

Attached please find:

1. His talking points which he should repeat and use at every meeting this week.
2. The letter that Jim Cason sent to NCAI clarifying his comments about Tribal sovereignty. He should echo these messages when he speaks to Tribes Sunday night and the rest of this week.

I have also printed them out and will take hard copies with me.  
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Thanks,  
L

*Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior*

On Sat, May 6, 2017 at 1:48 PM, Bauserman, Christine  
<[christine\\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Laura and Heather,

Do we have any T.P. for the Secretary's Monday electronic briefing?

I am putting together all the Briefing Papers for you into one file right now.  
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**6:00-9:00pm MDT: Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation Dinner**

**Attendees:**

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Location: Bureau of Land Management Utah State Office  
440 West 200 South

Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Participants: Secretary Ryan Zinke

Alfred Lomahquahu, Vice chairman, Hopi Tribe (Kykotsmovi, AZ)

James Adakai, President, Utah Navajo Chapter of Olijato, Navajo Nation (Fort Defiance, AZ)

Davis Filfred, Navajo Nation Council (Window Rock, AZ)

Shaun Chapoose, Chairman, Ute Indian Tribe (Fort Duchesne, UT)

Carleton Bowekaty, Councilman, Zuni Tribe (Zuni, NM)

Terry Knight, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Ute Mountain Ute (Towaoc, CO)

Natasha Hale, Native American Program Director, Grand Canyon Trust

Charles Wilkinson, Legal Advisor, University of Colorado

Leland Begay, Legal Advisor, Ute Mountain Ute

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--  
Christine Bauserman  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Special Assistant to Secretary  
email: [christine\\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov)  
phone: 202-706-9330

## "Rigas, Laura" <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>

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**From:** "Rigas, Laura" <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Sun May 07 2017 09:29:03 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** "Swift, Heather" <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Monday T.P.

This is great, thanks, Downey. Let's chat before our 10:45 with him about when we share what with him. Know there's a lot of moving parts.

Thanks!

L

*Laura Keehner Rigas*  
*Communications Director*  
*U.S. Department of the Interior*  
*(202) 897-7022 cell*  
*@Interior*

On Sat, May 6, 2017 at 10:12 PM, Magallanes, Downey <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

I modified the memo BLM submitted for the outdoor industry roundtable and dinner and threw in talking points and background specific for this crowd. Please take a look.

On Sat, May 6, 2017 at 3:07 PM, Rigas, Laura <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Christine and team --

Attached please find:

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*U.S. Department of the Interior*  
*(202) 897-7022 cell*  
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Christine Bauserman  
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--

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202-501-0654 (desk)  
202-706-9199 (cell)

# **INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**SUBJECT:** Meeting with Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition

**DATE:** May 7, 2017 **TIME:** 3:30 - 4:30 pm

**FROM:** Edwin Roberson, State Director – Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Utah  
POC: Mike Richardson, BLM-Utah Communications Director, (801)539-4020

---

## **I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Meeting with members of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

In July 2015, five American Indian Tribes with cultural affiliation to the Bears Ears region formed the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. Members included the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and the Zuni Tribe.

On Oct. 15, 2015, the coalition submitted a formal proposal to President Barrack Obama requesting designation of 1.9 million acres as the Bears Ears National Monument. The coalition's proposal emphasized collaborative management between the Tribes and the Federal government.

On Dec. 28, 2016, 1.35 million acres in southern Utah were designated as the Bears Ears National Monument. The proclamation stated that the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service would engage the Tribes in development of a management plan and the subsequent management of monument lands.

The coalition has said publicly that it intends to litigate any attempt to rescind the Bears Ears National Monument designation.

## **III. DISCUSSION**

Members of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition invited to attend the meeting include:

Hopi Tribe:	<u>Alfred Lomahquahu</u> , Vice Chairman
Navajo Nation:	<u>Russell Begaye</u> , President; <u>Jonathan Nez</u> , Vice President; <u>Lorenzo Bates</u> , Speaker; <u>Davis Filfred</u> , Council Delegate
Ute Indian Tribe:	<u>Shaun Chapoose</u> , Chairman
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe:	<u>Harold Cuthair</u> , Chairman
Zuni Tribe:	<u>Carleton Bowekaty</u> , Councilman

Additional Tribal members and support staff may also be present.

## **IV. ATTACHMENTS**

1. March 3, 2017, letter from the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition to Secretary Ryan Zinke

March 17, 2017

Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary of the Department of the Interior  
1849 C. Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Honorable Michael Scuse  
Acting Secretary of the Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Zinke and Acting Secretary Scuse,

This letter is to inform you that the Bears Ears Commission, which was established in President Obama's Bears Ears National Monument Proclamation, is now fully constituted. The elected Commissioners from the five sovereign Native American Tribes are : Alfred Lomahquahu - the Hopi Nation, Davis Filfred and James Adakai - the Navajo Nation, Terry Knight - the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Shaun Chapoose - the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and Carleton Bowekaty - the Zuni Tribe. We urge you to meet with the Commission members as soon as possible, and there will be a good opportunity will when Secretary Zinke makes his first visit to Utah as Secretary. This letter sets forth the reasons that such meeting would be beneficial as soon as possible.

Our five Tribes were the driving force in the effort to create the Bears Ears National Monument. Our people were forcibly removed from the Bears Ears area in the mid-1800s but we have always continued to return to this cultural landscape for ceremonies, hunting, gathering of herbs and medicines, and other purposes. Then, beginning in 2010, we turned to formal protection. We conducted a tremendous amount of research into the scientific, historic, and cultural values of the region. Based on that research, we developed boundaries for a protected area. Then, in October 2015, we submitted a comprehensive, formal proposal for protection as a national monument or other designated area and took the lead in meetings with the Obama Administration and the Utah Delegation. This was the first time in history that American Indian Tribes had ever petitioned for a national monument or other such designation. Making the monument a reality required long and hard work by a large number of Indian people, especially our tribal leaders and traditional practitioners.

The purpose of the Proclamation is to honor the Tribes, both historic and contemporary, the land, and the relationship between the Tribes and the land. The proclamation, in many places, emphasizes the importance of incorporating tribal traditional knowledge into all aspects of monument management. To be certain that the Tribes are fully represented in managing the new monument, the Proclamation calls for a regime of collaborative management between the tribes and the federal agencies. Our Commission was established "to ensure that management decisions affecting the monument reflect tribal expertise and historical knowledge." (emphasis added). Among other provisions, your two agencies are directed to "partner" with the Commission, to "meaningfully engage" the Commission in monument management, to "carefully and fully consider" recommendations of the Commission, and to conduct "meaningful engagement" with the Commission. All of these provisions are now fully in force as federal law.

Now that our Commission has been fully constituted, we are most anxious to meet with agency officials in the field and, as mentioned, Secretary Zinke during his Utah visit. These will be opportunities to begin discussions on fulfilling the promise of this historic opportunity to create a unique and highly productive system of collaborative management.

We have heard reports that the Trump Administration may be considering actions to reduce the size of the monument or to eliminate it entirely. If that is correct, we would consider it essential that we are able to have full discussions with you about those possibilities. Of course, from our standpoint, any such actions would be absolute tragedies in terms of impacts on our people today and the eternal values and traditions of our many generations of ancestors. Needless to say, if

such actions are not being considered, than the meetings would be extraordinarily productive in terms of starting to put in place a system of collaborative management that would make this monument one of the brightest stars in America's public land system.

We invite you to meet with the Commission when you visit Utah in March so that we may discuss the Bears Ears National Monument, its importance to our Nations, and our management priorities with you. Please contact Commission member Carleton Bowekaty at (505) 879-2826 or [Carleton.Bowekaty@ashiwi.org](mailto:Carleton.Bowekaty@ashiwi.org) to arrange this meeting.

Respectfully,

---

Alfred Lomahquahu Carleton Bowekaty

Bears Ears Commission Interim Co-Chair Bears Ears Commission Interim Co-Chair

Cc: Ed Roberson, State Director – Utah, Bureau of Land Management

Nora Rasure, Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service

Tyler Ashcroft, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management

Michael Diem, Moab/Monticello District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service

# **INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**SUBJECT:** Discussion on recreational industry representatives in Utah

**DATE:** May 7, 2017 **TIME:** 6:00 - 9:00 pm

**FROM:** Edwin Roberson, State Director – Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Utah  
POC: Mike Richardson, BLM-Utah Communications Director, (801)539-4020

## **I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Discussion on recreation viewpoints and activities in Utah especially as they relate to BLM monuments.

## **II. PARTICIPANTS**

- Federal and legislative representatives
- Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation
- Gary Heward, CEO, Liberty Mountain
- Bill Harmon, Goal Zero
- Joshua Bradley, Amer Sports
- Nazz Kurth, Petzl
- Amanda Covington, Vista Outdoors
- Ashley Kornblat, Western Spirit
- Don Peay, Utah Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

## **III. BACKGROUND**

### **A. Bears Ears National Monument**

- Total estimated recreational visitors to the Monticello Field Office, including the Bears Ears National Monument, in Fiscal Year 2016 was 418,684 people. In Fiscal Year 2000, there were an estimated 180,233 visitors. Hiking, camping, off-highway vehicle use, viewing cultural resources, and photography were the top five recreational activities within the Monticello Field Office in Fiscal Year 2016.
- In Fiscal Year 2016, the Monticello Field Office issued 117 Special Recreation Permits to authorize a wide variety of commercial, competitive, and organized group activities to expand and enhance recreational access, including 13 permits to commercial hunting outfitter and guiding services. In Fiscal Year 2000, the field office issued 58 Special Recreation Permits, including 4 commercial hunting outfitter and guiding services.
- There are currently over 1,800 miles of designated roads and primitive roads within the Monticello Field Office that provide recreational off-highway vehicle access.

### **B. Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**

- Total estimated recreational visitors to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Fiscal Year 2016 was 926,236 people. In Fiscal Year 2000, there were an estimated 568,214 visitors. Hiking, camping, off-highway vehicle use, scenic touring/viewing, and participating in environmental education events were the top five recreational activities within the Monument in Fiscal Year 2016.
- In Fiscal Year 2016, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument issued 122 Special Recreation Permits to authorize a wide variety of commercial, competitive, and organized group activities to expand and enhance recreational access. In Fiscal Year 2000, the Monument issued 37 Special Recreation Permits.
- On average, the Monument issues 16 Special Recreation Permits to commercial hunting guide and outfitter services each year to support big game hunting opportunities for deer, elk, pronghorn, desert bighorn sheep, mountain lion, black bear, and turkey. The BLM has partnered



with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to re-introduce pronghorn, bighorn, wild turkey within the Monument.

- There are currently over 900 miles of designated roads and primitive roads within the Monument that provide recreational off-highway vehicle access.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION**

##### **A. Bears Ears National Monument**

- Specific visitation figures to the newly-designated National Monument are not yet available, however, there has been a significant increase in visitor demand for overnight and day-use permits throughout Cedar Mesa. BLM-Utah expects that recreational visitation to the Monument will continue to increase for some time, and has undertaken the following initiatives to promote responsible and sustainable heritage tourism opportunities:
- Within the last three years, BLM-Utah has funded the stabilization of 11 highly visited archaeological sites throughout the Monticello Field Office, primarily within the Bears Ears National Monument. These efforts will facilitate the development of new visitor amenities and the marketing of these recreational opportunities to visitors from all over the world.
- In partnership with the non-profit organization Tread Lightly!, BLM-Utah developed a public awareness campaign titled Respect and Protect, which aims to eliminate the looting and vandalism of archaeological, paleontological, and natural resources in Utah. BLM-Utah is currently developing a Memorandum of Understanding with 14 state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and professional and avocational groups to collaboratively and consistently share the Respect and Protect campaign messages.

##### **B. Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**

- The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is widely recognized as an international outdoor recreation destination for dispersed and undeveloped activities. There are intentionally very few developed facilities to provide visitors with back country recreational experiences.
- Most recreational uses and allocations within the Monument were established in the Monument Management Plan, which was approved in 2000.
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## **INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**SUBJECT:** Discussion on recreational industry representatives in Utah

**DATE:** May 7, 2017 **TIME:** 6:00 - 9:00 pm

**FROM:** Maureen Foster, Acting Assistant Secretary FWP

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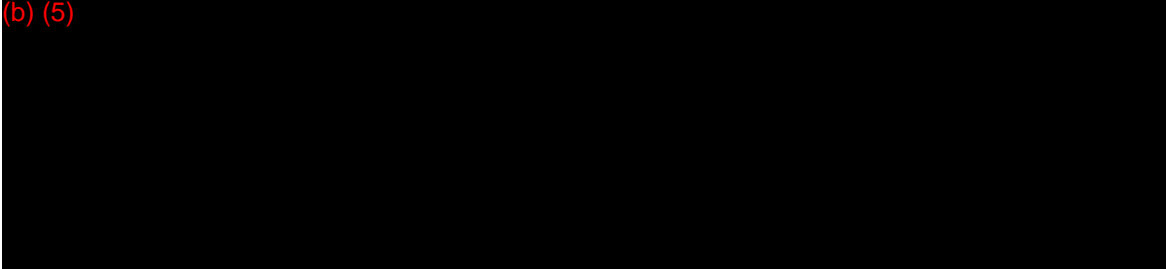
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### **IV. KEY FACTS/HOT TOPICS**

- The Bear River Watershed Conservation Area (BRWCA) will use LWCF funds to gain a 728-acre easement from the Ferry family for \$800,000 in late 2017; the remaining \$1.2 M will be used to acquire other voluntary easements in the area.
- (b) (5)  

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- Greater Sage Grouse in UT are stable except the geographically isolated Sheeprock population in central Utah, which has declined by 40% over the last 4 years. It occurs in a BLM Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA) and State Management Area.
- Outdoor recreation has a substantial positive economic generator in Utah and throughout the United States. In the US economy, outdoor recreation resulted in \$887 billion in consumer spending annually and provides 7.6 million American Jobs. (Source: Outdoor Industry Association, April 24, 2017)
- Forty-seven communities in Utah have requested NPS assistance in developing their conservation and outdoor recreation visions over the last 10 years.

### **VI. BACKGROUND**

- **LWCF and BRWCA:** Over the past 5 years, the USFWS has acquired 768 acres at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Utah using \$1.599M in LWCF funding. In FY16, the Service was appropriated \$2m for the BRWCA located in Utah, WY, and ID for acquisition of voluntary easements. Congressman Bishop, Senator Hatch, and Senator Lee support BRWCA; Congressman Bishop attended the event honoring 30 acre donation by the Ferry family in Box

Elder County, Utah that was received in 2016 and formally established the BRWCA. The BRWCA enjoys broad landowner-based support.

(b) (5)



- **GSG:** The State of Utah's plan for greater sage-grouse applies to all lands within 11 state-designated Sage-Grouse Management Areas (SGMAs) and covers approximately 7.5 million acres. The state's goal is to conserve 90% of its greater sage-grouse habitat and approximately 94% of the population. Many of the conservation measures in the plan are voluntary and rely on negotiated, incentive-based actions to achieve conservation on non-federal lands. An Executive Order established due to the Plan requires the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining to coordinate with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources before issuing permits for energy development. It also directs the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining to implement recommendations provided by the Utah Division of Wildlife. On Federal lands, BLM and U.S. Forest Service's amended land-use management plan complement the state's Plan and are critical to the success of greater sage-grouse conservation. The amendments limit surface disturbances and address habitat threats in the most important areas for sage-grouse. The highest value habitats are designated as Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA) and there is a 98% overlap with the state-designated Sage-

Grouse Core Areas. General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA) provide greater flexibility for federal land use activities. To address the recent declines of the Sheeprock population, BLM is working with state and local partners to implement and prioritize a suite of conservation actions, including translocations of greater sage-grouse to the area, habitat restoration, fire suppression, and minimizing impacts from right of way developments.

- **Utah Economy from Recreation:** The Outdoor Industry Association in 2012 estimated that outdoor recreation resulted in: 122,000 direct jobs in Utah, \$12 billion in consumer spending, \$3.6 billion in wages and salaries, and \$856 million in State and Local Tax Revenue (Source: Data from 2012 Outdoor Recreation Economy Generated)
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In 2016, there were 13,988,000 visitors to National Park units in Utah creating a substantial economic contribution to Utah: \$1.1 billion spending by visitors to National Park units in Utah; 17.9 thousand jobs in Utah local economy including camping, fuel, groceries, hotels, recreation industries, restaurants, retail, transportation; \$546.7 million in labor income in Utah; \$1.6 billion in economic output resulting from National Parks in Utah (Source: 2016 National Park Visitor Spending Effects: Economic Contributions to Local Communities, States, and the Nation, Natural Resource Report NPS/NRSS/EQD/NRR – 2017/1421)

**NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program:** NPS has worked with 54 Local and State partners on 63 outdoor recreation projects located within a half miles of approximately 967,000 residents. In response to applications from local leaders, the NPS supports several projects in UT at any given time by bringing partners and stakeholders together in a planning process that results in on the ground improvements to parks, trails, rivers, and natural areas that help to connect people to the outdoors. Assistance includes technical support for park and recreation planning and management, assistance with broad-based community engagement in the planning process, and helping to guide partners through the many steps needed to move from idea to action. Many of these project involve partnerships between DOI and other public land managers and community partners.

Significant NPS RTCA supported past successes:

- Jordan River - worked with partners to develop plans and secure support (\$2M+) to close a 1.2 mile gap in the trail in West Jordan, continue to support community engagement.
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Current NPS RTCA supported projects:

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- Cache County Trails - developing a community supported plan for County-wide trails network.
- Panguitch Area Trailhead Kiosks - improving public information at three regional trailheads.
- Smith Preserve Archaeological Site & Trail Plan - designing low impact site improvements to allow public to experience and appreciate the site's significant petroglyphs.
- Syracuse Shoreline Trail - developing a trail along the eastern shore of the Great Salt Lake.
- Vernal City - Dino Trails Planning - planning and securing support for a regional trails system.
- Wasatch Front Urban Ranger Program - working with University of Utah, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other partners to create the next generation of rangers, trails stewards and advocates that are in turn engaging diverse urban audiences with regional trails.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants:** \$48,880,000 has been provided to Utah through the National Park Service managed the Land and Water Conservation Fund that provides for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

**Federal Lands to Parks:** 2,765 acres of surplus Federal property had been transferred to local communities in Utah for parks and outdoor recreation areas.

# **INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**SUBJECT:** Meeting with Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition

**DATE:** May 7, 2017 **TIME:** 3:30 - 4:30 pm

**FROM:** Edwin Roberson, State Director – Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Utah  
POC: Mike Richardson, BLM-Utah Communications Director, (801)539-4020

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## **I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Meeting with members of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

In July 2015, five American Indian Tribes with cultural affiliation to the Bears Ears region formed the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. Members included the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and the Zuni Tribe.

On Oct. 15, 2015, the coalition submitted a formal proposal to President Barrack Obama requesting designation of 1.9 million acres as the Bears Ears National Monument. The coalition's proposal emphasized collaborative management between the Tribes and the Federal government.

On Dec. 28, 2016, 1.35 million acres in southern Utah were designated as the Bears Ears National Monument. The proclamation stated that the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service would engage the Tribes in development of a management plan and the subsequent management of monument lands.

The coalition has said publicly that it intends to litigate any attempt to rescind the Bears Ears National Monument designation.

## **III. DISCUSSION**

Members of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition invited to attend the meeting include:

Hopi Tribe:	<u>Alfred Lomahquahu</u> , Vice Chairman
Navajo Nation:	<u>Russell Begaye</u> , President; <u>Jonathan Nez</u> , Vice President; <u>Lorenzo Bates</u> , Speaker; <u>Davis Filfred</u> , Council Delegate
Ute Indian Tribe:	<u>Shaun Chapoose</u> , Chairman
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe:	<u>Harold Cuthair</u> , Chairman
Zuni Tribe:	<u>Carleton Bowekaty</u> , Councilman

Additional Tribal members and support staff may also be present.

## **IV. ATTACHMENTS**

1. March 3, 2017, letter from the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition to Secretary Ryan Zinke

March 17, 2017

Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary of the Department of the Interior  
1849 C. Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Honorable Michael Scuse  
Acting Secretary of the Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Zinke and Acting Secretary Scuse,

This letter is to inform you that the Bears Ears Commission, which was established in President Obama's Bears Ears National Monument Proclamation, is now fully constituted. The elected Commissioners from the five sovereign Native American Tribes are : Alfred Lomahquahu - the Hopi Nation, Davis Filfred and James Adakai - the Navajo Nation, Terry Knight - the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Shaun Chapoose - the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and Carleton Bowekaty - the Zuni Tribe. We urge you to meet with the Commission members as soon as possible, and there will be a good opportunity will when Secretary Zinke makes his first visit to Utah as Secretary. This letter sets forth the reasons that such meeting would be beneficial as soon as possible.

Our five Tribes were the driving force in the effort to create the Bears Ears National Monument. Our people were forcibly removed from the Bears Ears area in the mid-1800s but we have always continued to return to this cultural landscape for ceremonies, hunting, gathering of herbs and medicines, and other purposes. Then, beginning in 2010, we turned to formal protection. We conducted a tremendous amount of research into the scientific, historic, and cultural values of the region. Based on that research, we developed boundaries for a protected area. Then, in October 2015, we submitted a comprehensive, formal proposal for protection as a national monument or other designated area and took the lead in meetings with the Obama Administration and the Utah Delegation. This was the first time in history that American Indian Tribes had ever petitioned for a national monument or other such designation. Making the monument a reality required long and hard work by a large number of Indian people, especially our tribal leaders and traditional practitioners.

The purpose of the Proclamation is to honor the Tribes, both historic and contemporary, the land, and the relationship between the Tribes and the land. The proclamation, in many places, emphasizes the importance of incorporating tribal traditional knowledge into all aspects of monument management. To be certain that the Tribes are fully represented in managing the new monument, the Proclamation calls for a regime of collaborative management between the tribes and the federal agencies. Our Commission was established "to ensure that management decisions affecting the monument reflect tribal expertise and historical knowledge." (emphasis added). Among other provisions, your two agencies are directed to "partner" with the Commission, to "meaningfully engage" the Commission in monument management, to "carefully and fully consider" recommendations of the Commission, and to conduct "meaningful engagement" with the Commission. All of these provisions are now fully in force as federal law.

Now that our Commission has been fully constituted, we are most anxious to meet with agency officials in the field and, as mentioned, Secretary Zinke during his Utah visit. These will be opportunities to begin discussions on fulfilling the promise of this historic opportunity to create a unique and highly productive system of collaborative management.

We have heard reports that the Trump Administration may be considering actions to reduce the size of the monument or to eliminate it entirely. If that is correct, we would consider it essential that we are able to have full discussions with you about those possibilities. Of course, from our

standpoint, any such actions would be absolute tragedies in terms of impacts on our people today and the eternal values and traditions of our many generations of ancestors. Needless to say, if such actions are not being considered, than the meetings would be extraordinarily productive in terms of starting to put in place a system of collaborative management that would make this monument one of the brightest stars in America's public land system.

We invite you to meet with the Commission when you visit Utah in March so that we may discuss the Bears Ears National Monument, its importance to our Nations, and our management priorities with you. Please contact Commission member Carleton Bowekaty at (505) 879-2826 or [Carleton.Bowekaty@ashiwi.org](mailto:Carleton.Bowekaty@ashiwi.org) to arrange this meeting.

Respectfully,

---

Alfred Lomahquahu Carleton Bowekaty

Bears Ears Commission Interim Co-Chair Bears Ears Commission Interim Co-Chair

Cc: Ed Roberson, State Director – Utah, Bureau of Land Management

Nora Rasure, Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service

Tyler Ashcroft, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management

Michael Diem, Moab/Monticello District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service



# **INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

**SUBJECT:** Discussion on recreational industry representatives in Utah

**DATE:** May 7, 2017 **TIME:** 6:00 - 9:00 pm

**FROM:** Edwin Roberson, State Director – Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Utah  
POC: Mike Richardson, BLM-Utah Communications Director, (801)539-4020

## **I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Discussion on recreation viewpoints and activities in Utah especially as they relate to BLM monuments.

## **II. PARTICIPANTS**

- Federal and legislative representatives
- Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation
- Gary Heward, CEO, Liberty Mountain
- Bill Harmon, Goal Zero
- Joshua Bradley, Amer Sports
- Nazz Kurth, Petzl
- Amanda Covington, Vista Outdoors
- Ashley Kornblat, Western Spirit
- Don Peay, Utah Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

## **III. BACKGROUND**

### **A. Bears Ears National Monument**

- Total estimated recreational visitors to the Monticello Field Office, including the Bears Ears National Monument, in Fiscal Year 2016 was 418,684 people. In Fiscal Year 2000, there were an estimated 180,233 visitors. Hiking, camping, off-highway vehicle use, viewing cultural resources, and photography were the top five recreational activities within the Monticello Field Office in Fiscal Year 2016.
- In Fiscal Year 2016, the Monticello Field Office issued 117 Special Recreation Permits to authorize a wide variety of commercial, competitive, and organized group activities to expand and enhance recreational access, including 13 permits to commercial hunting outfitter and guiding services. In Fiscal Year 2000, the field office issued 58 Special Recreation Permits, including 4 commercial hunting outfitter and guiding services.
- There are currently over 1,800 miles of designated roads and primitive roads within the Monticello Field Office that provide recreational off-highway vehicle access.

### **B. Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**

- Total estimated recreational visitors to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Fiscal Year 2016 was 926,236 people. In Fiscal Year 2000, there were an estimated 568,214 visitors. Hiking, camping, off-highway vehicle use, scenic touring/viewing, and participating in environmental education events were the top five recreational activities within the Monument in Fiscal Year 2016.
- In Fiscal Year 2016, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument issued 122 Special Recreation Permits to authorize a wide variety of commercial, competitive, and organized group activities to expand and enhance recreational access. In Fiscal Year 2000, the Monument issued 37 Special Recreation Permits.
- On average, the Monument issues 16 Special Recreation Permits to commercial hunting guide

and outfitter services each year to support big game hunting opportunities for deer, elk, pronghorn, desert bighorn sheep, mountain lion, black bear, and turkey. The BLM has partnered with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to re-introduce pronghorn, bighorn, wild turkey within the Monument.

- There are currently over 900 miles of designated roads and primitive roads within the Monument that provide recreational off-highway vehicle access.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION**

##### **A. Bears Ears National Monument**

- Specific visitation figures to the newly-designated National Monument are not yet available, however, there has been a significant increase in visitor demand for overnight and day-use permits throughout Cedar Mesa. BLM-Utah expects that recreational visitation to the Monument will continue to increase for some time, and has undertaken the following initiatives to promote responsible and sustainable heritage tourism opportunities:
- Within the last three years, BLM-Utah has funded the stabilization of 11 highly visited archaeological sites throughout the Monticello Field Office, primarily within the Bears Ears National Monument. These efforts will facilitate the development of new visitor amenities and the marketing of these recreational opportunities to visitors from all over the world.
- In partnership with the non-profit organization Tread Lightly!, BLM-Utah developed a public awareness campaign titled Respect and Protect, which aims to eliminate the looting and vandalism of archaeological, paleontological, and natural resources in Utah. BLM-Utah is currently developing a Memorandum of Understanding with 14 state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and professional and avocational groups to collaboratively and consistently share the Respect and Protect campaign messages.

##### **B. Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**

- The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is widely recognized as an international outdoor recreation destination for dispersed and undeveloped activities. There are intentionally very few developed facilities to provide visitors with back country recreational experiences.
- Most recreational uses and allocations within the Monument were established in the Monument Management Plan, which was approved in 2000.
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# INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

**SUBJECT:** Discussion on recreational industry representatives in Utah

**DATE:** May 7, 2017 **TIME:** 6:00 - 9:00 pm

**FROM:** Maureen Foster, Acting Assistant Secretary FWP

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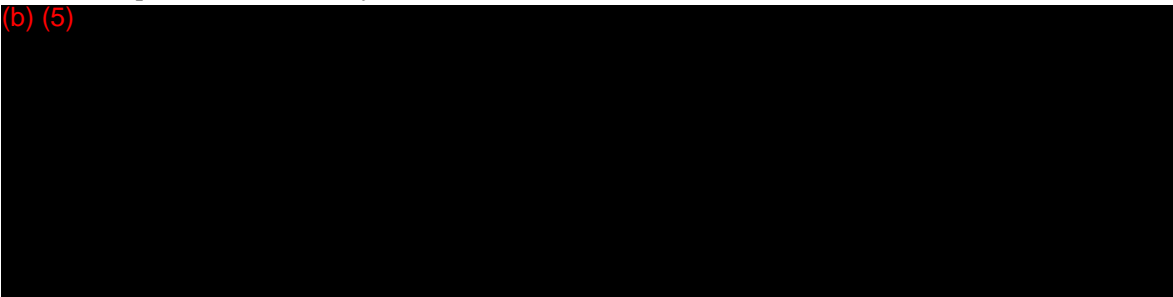
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## **IV. KEY FACTS/HOT TOPICS**

- The Bear River Watershed Conservation Area (BRWCA) will use LWCF funds to gain a 728-acre easement from the Ferry family for \$800,000 in late 2017; the remaining \$1.2 M will be used to acquire other voluntary easements in the area.
- (b) (5) 
- 
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- Greater Sage Grouse in UT are stable except the geographically isolated Sheeprock population in central Utah, which has declined by 40% over the last 4 years. It occurs in a BLM Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA) and State Management Area.
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**Federal Lands to Parks:** 2,765 acres of surplus Federal property had been transferred to local communities in Utah for parks and outdoor recreation areas.

## TOPLINE

God gave me two ears and one mouth so I'm here to do a lot of listening and learning and hopefully talking just enough to ask the right questions.

I'm here, directed by the President, to learn about the monuments, the historic and ecological significance, and make a determination.

Nothing is pre-determined. I come to this process with fresh eyes.

Nobody loves public lands more than me. You can love them as much, but not more.

## Talking Points

This Administration and Congress have heard from states and local leaders that, in some cases, the designations of monuments may have resulted in lost jobs, reduced wages, and residents moving away. In the case of significant land planning, we feel that public input should be considered.

That's why the President has asked for a review of large the monuments designated in the last 20 years, to see what changes and improvements can be made, and to give states and local communities a meaningful **voice** in this process.

This policy is consistent with President Trump's promise to rural Americans to give them a voice and make sure their voices are heard.

The President believes, like I do and many of my neighbors in Western States, that the Federal government can be a good neighbor, can protect areas of cultural and ecological importance, and that we can use federal lands for economic development – just as Teddy Roosevelt envisioned.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the President the authority to declare “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest” on federal lands.

Concerned about potential federal overreach, Antiquities Act authors specified the scope of the authority was to designate the “smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected.”

**What the Executive Order does:**

- This Executive Order restores trust between local communities and Washington and roots out abuses of power by previous administrations.
- This Executive Order puts America and the Department of the Interior back on track to manage our federal lands in accordance to traditional “multiple-use” philosophy by directing the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to make recommendations to the President on whether a monument should be rescinded, resized in order to better manage our federal lands.
- And - This Executive Order gives rural communities across America a voice and restores land use planning by directing the Secretary of the Interior to consult and coordinate with the Governors of States affected by monument designations or other relevant officials of affected State, Tribal, and local governments.

**What it does NOT do:**

- This Executive Order does NOT strip any monument of a designation.
- Does not sell or transfer federal lands
- This Executive Order does NOT loosen any environmental or conservation regulations on any land or marine areas.





# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

MAY 05 2017

Ms. Jacqueline Pata  
Executive Director  
National Congress of American Indians  
1516 P Street, NW.  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Pata:

JACKIE,

As part of our ongoing dialogue, I am writing to make you aware that we were deeply disturbed by media mischaracterizations of Secretary Ryan Zinke's comments delivered at the National Tribal Energy Summit earlier this week. The Secretary, several Department of the Interior (Department) staff members, and I have already had conversations with several tribal leaders this week. I write to you today to let you know that we hear Indian Country's concerns, and want to set the record straight on where this Administration and Department stand on protecting and strengthening sovereignty.

As a former member of Congress and now head of the Department, the Secretary supports tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty, and believes the Federal Government should meet its trust responsibilities.

At the Summit, the Secretary made broad comments that referred to significant but sensitive moments in our Nation's history of tribal relations. He wanted to convey that he understands the continuing impacts of policies from the past and is dedicated to improving the conditions in Indian Country as the Trustee. He even emphasized that "if the Department is not value added, we should get out of the way."

At this time there are no plans to alter the Department's current management of our trust responsibilities. Without a doubt, there are many options for improvement as we work together, all of which will require detailed thought and consultation with Tribes interested in exercising a greater degree of self-governance and sovereignty.

We welcome dialogue regarding new strategies for improving our role in supporting sovereignty and providing services to Indian Country and encourage the continued involvement of tribal leaders in this important discussion. The Secretary and I look forward to continuing to work with tribal communities and welcome future discussions with tribal leaders to protect and strengthen sovereignty.

Thank you for your partnership. We look forward to the ongoing dialogue on these and many other important issues.

Sincerely,

James Cason

Delegated Authority of the Deputy Secretary

## Outdoor Industry Roundtable

### Top Line Points:

There are 13 units of National Parks, National Historic Trails, National Monuments and National Historic Sites in Utah.

These sites attract visitors to hike, camp, explore, and participate in world-class hunting opportunities.

We have to recognize that recreation visitors have increased over the last 16 years in the Grand Staircase and the area around Bears Ears.

So with this in mind, throughout this review period as we get back on track to manage our federal lands in accordance with multiple use, we are going to look at opportunities for expanded recreational and sportsmen access.

Land use planning should always include public input, and we hope to restore that process by giving locals a voice with this review.

### Background Data:

There are 13 units of National Parks, National Historic Trails, National Monuments and National Historic Sites in Utah.

In 2016, there were 13,988,000 visitors to National Park units in Utah, which supported \$1.1 billion in spending.

The Monticello Field Office, which is right next to Bears Ears, estimates 418,684 recreational visitors to BLM lands in the Monticello footprint in FY16. This is up from 180,233 in FY00.

Total estimated recreational visitors to Grand Staircase in FY16 was 926,236, up from 568,214 in FY00.

### Sportsmen activities:

The combined 3.2 Million acres of both Bears Ears and the Grand Staricase are home to deer, elk, pronghorn, desert bighorn sheep, antelope, cougar, mountain lion, black bear, and turkey.

Around 51,007 hunters apply for permits in these areas, and it generates around \$29 Million in direct conservation funding and economic activity.

BLM partnered with the Utah DWR to re-introduce pronghorn, bighorn, and wild turkey within the Grand Staircase.

More than \$1 Million of private sportsmen funds have invested in the last ten years to grow and expand these herds.

## Outdoor Industry Roundtable

### Top Line Points:

There are 13 units of National Parks, National Historic Trails, National Monuments and National Historic Sites in Utah.

These sites attract visitors to hike, camp, explore, and participate in world-class hunting opportunities.

We have to recognize that recreation visitors have increased over the last 16 years in the Grand Staircase and the area around Bears Ears.

So with this in mind, throughout this review period as we get back on track to manage our federal lands in accordance with multiple use, we are going to look at opportunities for expanded recreational and sportsmen access.

Land use planning should always include public input, and we hope to restore that process by giving locals a voice with this review.

### Background Data:

There are 13 units of National Parks, National Historic Trails, National Monuments and National Historic Sites in Utah.

In 2016, there were 13,988,000 visitors to National Park units in Utah, which supported \$1.1 billion in spending.

The Monticello Field Office, which is right next to Bears Ears, estimates 418,684 recreational visitors to BLM lands in the Monticello footprint in FY16. This is up from 180,233 in FY00.

Total estimated recreational visitors to Grand Staircase in FY16 was 926,236, up from 568,214 in FY00.

### Sportsmen activities:

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## TOPLINE

God gave me two ears and one mouth so I'm here to do a lot of listening and learning and hopefully talking just enough to ask the right questions.

I'm here, directed by the President, to learn about the monuments, the historic and ecological significance, and make a determination.

Nothing is pre-determined. I come to this process with fresh eyes.

Nobody loves public lands more than me. You can love them as much, but not more.

## Talking Points

This Administration and Congress have heard from states and local leaders that, in some cases, the designations of monuments may have resulted in lost jobs, reduced wages, and residents moving away. In the case of significant land planning, we feel that public input should be considered.

That's why the President has asked for a review of large the monuments designated in the last 20 years, to see what changes and improvements can be made, and to give states and local communities a meaningful **voice** in this process.

This policy is consistent with President Trump's promise to rural Americans to give them a voice and make sure their voices are heard.

The President believes, like I do and many of my neighbors in Western States, that the Federal government can be a good neighbor, can protect areas of cultural and ecological importance, and that we can use federal lands for economic development – just as Teddy Roosevelt envisioned.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the President the authority to declare "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" on federal lands.

Concerned about potential federal overreach, Antiquities Act authors specified the scope of the authority was to designate the "smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected."

**What the Executive Order does:**

- This Executive Order restores trust between local communities and Washington and roots out abuses of power by previous administrations.
- This Executive Order puts America and the Department of the Interior back on track to manage our federal lands in accordance to traditional “multiple-use” philosophy by directing the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to make recommendations to the President on whether a monument should be rescinded, resized in order to better manage our federal lands.
- And - This Executive Order gives rural communities across America a voice and restores land use planning by directing the Secretary of the Interior to consult and coordinate with the Governors of States affected by monument designations or other relevant officials of affected State, Tribal, and local governments.

**What it does NOT do:**

- This Executive Order does NOT strip any monument of a designation.
- Does not sell or transfer federal lands
- This Executive Order does NOT loosen any environmental or conservation regulations on any land or marine areas.



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

MAY 05 2017

Ms. Jacqueline Pata  
Executive Director  
National Congress of American Indians  
1516 P Street, NW.  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Pata:

JACKIE,

As part of our ongoing dialogue, I am writing to make you aware that we were deeply disturbed by media mischaracterizations of Secretary Ryan Zinke's comments delivered at the National Tribal Energy Summit earlier this week. The Secretary, several Department of the Interior (Department) staff members, and I have already had conversations with several tribal leaders this week. I write to you today to let you know that we hear Indian Country's concerns, and want to set the record straight on where this Administration and Department stand on protecting and strengthening sovereignty.

As a former member of Congress and now head of the Department, the Secretary supports tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty, and believes the Federal Government should meet its trust responsibilities.

At the Summit, the Secretary made broad comments that referred to significant but sensitive moments in our Nation's history of tribal relations. He wanted to convey that he understands the continuing impacts of policies from the past and is dedicated to improving the conditions in Indian Country as the Trustee. He even emphasized that "if the Department is not value added, we should get out of the way."

At this time there are no plans to alter the Department's current management of our trust responsibilities. Without a doubt, there are many options for improvement as we work together, all of which will require detailed thought and consultation with Tribes interested in exercising a greater degree of self-governance and sovereignty.

We welcome dialogue regarding new strategies for improving our role in supporting sovereignty and providing services to Indian Country and encourage the continued involvement of tribal leaders in this important discussion. The Secretary and I look forward to continuing to work with tribal communities and welcome future discussions with tribal leaders to protect and strengthen sovereignty.

Thank you for your partnership. We look forward to the ongoing dialogue on these and many other important issues.

Sincerely,

James Cason  
Delegated Authority of the Deputy Secretary